

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at Park View Community School, Lombard Drive, Chester-le-Street on Tuesday 17th July 2012.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Mrs. E. Forrester
Councillors: Mrs. S. Brown, Mrs. M. Caygill, Mrs. M. May,
Mrs. C. Walton, Mr. N. Alderson,
Mr. C. Noble-Nesbitt.

County Councillors: Mr. P. May.

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm with the Chairman welcoming everyone. Councillor Mrs. S. Brown was not present at the commencement of the meeting.

Item 1. 12/80 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Mrs. D. Prest and Mr. C. Jukes.

Item 2. 12/81 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made.

Item 3. 12/82 Report of the Police

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Lesley Hunter to the meeting and invited her to give the Police report (Appendix 1, attached). Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised the meeting of a recent incident in the Parish involving a youth who appeared to be residing at the YMCA flats in the market place. (**Resolved** - to write to the YMCA expressing concern at this incident).

At this point, Councillor Mrs. S. Brown arrived at the meeting.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Hunter for presenting the report.

Item 4. 12/83 Reports of the County Councillors

The Chairman welcomed County Councillor P. May to the meeting and invited him to give his report which included the following matters.

- a) The County Council had completed drainage improvement works at Picktree Lodge Estate.
- b) County Cllr. May had asked that, at the forthcoming AAP Board Meeting, an update be given regarding matters at the YMCA building in the market place. He had also suggested that the Police Chief Inspector and an officer from the County Council Planning Department be present at the meeting.
- c) The poles for the speed visors were now in place. The signs were expected to be installed before the end of July.
- d) The celebratory event at Merlin Drive play area had been cancelled due to bad weather. County Cllr. May and Andrew McKeown, the artist, had attended at the site in case anyone had arrived for the event. Councillors discussed the possibility of an event later in the year. Councillors expressed disappointment with the content of the press release put out by the County Council for the event and agreed with Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt that the County Durham Association of Local Councils should request a statement from the County Council as to how the County Council proposed to work

alongside Parish Councils on such matters.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor May for his report.

Item 5. 12/84 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th June 2012, draft copies of which had been previously circulated, were adopted as a true and accurate record of the Meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

Item 6. 12/85 Chairman's Report

a) Re Minute 12/63. The Chairman advised that the Residents' Association had now approved the change of its constitution.

b) Re Minute 12/65. Re new artwork for Drum Industrial Estate, County Cllr. May advised that the County Council was awaiting costings.

c) The Chairman reported on the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 2). Re the request by the Chester-le-Street Sub-Committee of CDALC, Councillors agreed with the request to make a £10 per year contribution towards its costs.

(Resolved - to contribute £10 per year towards the costs of the Chester-le-Street Sub-Committee of CDALC).

Re the proposed visit by Kevan Jones MP to Merlin Drive play area, the Chairman, Councillors Mrs. Caygill and Mrs. Walton and County Cllr. May expressed an interest to attend. The Clerk will liaise with the office of the MP to finalise arrangements.

Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 7. 12/86 Portfolio Holders' Reports

a) Horticulture The Chairman invited Cllr. Mrs. Walton to give her report which included the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 3). Re Merlin Drive play area, Cllr. Mrs. Walton will ask the gardener to cut back the weeds around the south and east edges.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Walton for her report and invited Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt to give his report.

b) Highways and Website Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt's report contained the following matters.

1) The recently completed surface dressing of the motorway roundabout had been very effective.

2) The Newsletter would be uploaded to the website and credit given to JAK Publications Ltd who had designed and printed the Newsletter. 3) The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt and Mrs.

Noble-Nesbitt for all their work in the compiling of the Newsletter. 4) The Clerk is to write to JAK Publications Ltd to thank them for their work in producing the Newsletter and to suggest that they

include their name by way of a credit at the end in next year's Newsletter. 5) County Cllr. May was asked to pursue with the County Council small defects to the newly re-laid footpath along North

Road.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report and invited Cllr. Mrs. Caygill to give her report which contained the following matters.

c) Play Areas 1) At Low Flatts, some weeds had grown high. Cllr. Mrs. Walton will ask the gardener if he is able to attend to the weeds. This would be in addition to his usual duties and hours of work.

2) The pest controller had advised that, in future, he would prefer not to make regular inspections of open spaces but would attend whenever advised of a specific need. Councillors agreed with this

change. 3) At Merlin Drive play area, cracks had been observed in the rocks forming the new artwork. Councillors considered that these were probably natural and therefore no action was to be

taken at present. 4) Residents had observed that, at Merlin Drive play area, warning notices were being ignored on occasions. Councillors considered that this might be due to the signs being too small. The Clerk will contact the County Council to ask for larger signs to be installed.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Caygill for her report and invited Cllr. Mrs. Brown to give her

report.

d) Publicity Cllr. Mrs. Brown advised that there were no matters to report.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Brown.

e) Planning In the absence of Cllr. Tones, no report was made.

f) Finance In the absence of Cllr. Jukes, no report was made.

Item 8. 12/87 Correspondence

1) From the Office of Kevan Jones MP
Email re visit to Merlin Drive Play Area.

2) From North Lodge Residents Association
Agenda for meeting held on 3rd June 2012.

3) From Park View Community Association
Letter re changeover of responsibility for bookings at Park View Academy.

4) From Durham Constabulary
email re wooded area alongside the A693.

The Clerk will liaise with County Cllr. May re the lack of replies from Durham County Council on this matter.

5) From County Durham Association of Local Councils

a) email re nominations for the County Executive Committee.

b) email re meeting of the Small & Medium Councils Forum to be held on Fri 17th Aug 2012.

c) email re the Local Government Finance Bill - draft localisation of Council Tax support arrangements.

d) email re CDALC meeting to be held on Tuesday 31st July 2012 to discuss precept setting.

e) email re Register of Interests Form.

Following the introduction of a new Code of Conduct, all Councillors are required to complete a new Register of Interests form.

f) Agenda for the CDALC Chester-le-Street sub-committee meeting held on Saturday 30th June.

6) From Durham County Council

a) Letter re proposed parking, waiting and loading/unloading restrictions at Cone Terrace.

b) Invitation to Parish Paths Partnership 20 year anniversary celebration to be held on Monday 19th November 2012.

c) Notification of the AAP Board Meeting to be held on Monday 23rd July 2012.

7) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-

a) Resubmission of planning approval 2/11/00298 for erection of single storey extension to north elevation, installation of dormer windows to front and rear, relocation of front door with canopy above, new bay window to front, alterations to garage, at 1 Blind Lane.

b) Application for proposed works to trees covered by TPO including the pruning of one beech tree and the crown lifting of two beech trees, the crown lifting of one sycamore and the felling of one sycamore and the felling of 9 pine trees, at 23 Blind Lane.

Item 9. 12/88 A New Code of Conduct

The Clerk advised the meeting that the recently introduced Localism Act had included the requirement for the Parish Council to adopt a new code of conduct. Councillors discussed this and agreed a Code in the form attached (Appendix 4).

(Resolved - to adopt the Code of Conduct in the form presented to the Meeting).

Item 10. 12/89 A Future Meeting Place for the Council

The Chairman and County Cllr. May had met the Headmaster and the Head of Governors of Park View School to discuss the future availability of a meeting room at the School's Lombard Drive site. The School had been able to make several offers and Councillors considered these. However, none of the offers were suitable for the Council and therefore it was with regret that an alternative venue would be required. Councillors agreed to hold a sub-meeting on Thursday 26th July to discuss this matter further.

Item 11. 12/90 Payment of Accounts

The following payments were submitted for approval.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. July 2012	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension July 2012	
Pot-It-On	£466.00	Horticulture	
DERIC Youth Bus	£50.00	Donation	
Finchale Training College	£50.00	Donation	
Great North Air Ambulance	£100.00	Donation	
Park View Community Association	£22.00	Room Hire	
Pot-It-On	£175.00	Horticulture	
JAK Publications Ltd	£360.00	Printing of Newsletters	£60.00
Country Care Pest Control	£440.00	Pest Control	

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 12. 12/91 Other Matters for Consideration

The following matter was submitted for consideration.

Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that, at the recent North Lodge Residents' Association meeting, it had been requested that a letter be sent to a certain resident of Picktree Lodge advising that the circular bed near the resident's house was now the responsibility of the County Council. The Clerk will advise the resident accordingly.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm, wishing everyone an enjoyable summer recess.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th September 2012.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Aug 2012	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Aug 2012	
D. Murrell		Salary/Exps. Sept 2012	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension Sept 2012	
Pot-It-On	£220.00	Horticulture	
BDO LLP	£162.00	Audit Fee	£27.00
E. Forrester	£150.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	

Balance to 31st July 2012

Balance b/f	£34996.87	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - July 2012	<u>£ 2319.98</u>		Current £10167.01
	£32676.89		30 Day <u>£32129.86</u>
			Total <u>£42296.87</u>
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 9619.98</u>
Balance c/f	£32676.89		£32676.89